



**WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR.  
CAREER & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

50 Jenckes Hill Road  
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865  
Phone: (401) 728-1500 Fax: (401) 728-8910

*Educating Innovators for the  
Twenty-First Century*

**Mary Watkins**, *Director/Superintendent*  
**Jose Libano**, *Associate Director/Principal*  
**Cheryl Carroll**, *Assistant Director/Finance & Operations*

May 19, 2025

**RE: Opposition to H-6236**

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

We are writing to request that Davies Career and Technical High School be exempt from H-6236, since the proposed legislation will have a devastating impact on Davies' future enrollment and funding.

Specifically, Davies would stand to lose approximately 125 students from a total enrollment of 887 students (14%). This would result in an estimated loss of over \$2,100,000 in state and local funding sources to Davies, with an estimated savings of only \$380,000 in transportation costs. In total, this equates to an estimated annual net loss of \$1,720,000 to Davies operating budget. Given a budget reduction of that magnitude, Davies would need to reduce its current staffing level by 11 FTEs.

Davies is a wonderful option for students and families, and continues to set the standard for high school CTE in Rhode Island. The proportion of time on learning devoted to CTE instruction and skills development at Davies is *much* higher than at comprehensive high schools, allowing our students to access 10 technical units over 4 years, versus 3 to 5 technical units elsewhere. Additionally, state and local businesses have made significant investments to create superior lab spaces for our technical programs. Most importantly, our students are expected to graduate with industry certifications and with substantial work-based learning experience (in addition to all other state graduation requirements) - last year, 91% the Davies Class of 2024 earned at least one CTE credential and collectively logged a total of 61,394 hours of work based learning, for an average of 339 hours per student. Our outcomes support our value proposition, and it is counterproductive to harm a state asset through this legislation.

Davies requests an exemption as follows:

Option #1: Preserve our transportation catchment area in its present form.

Option #2: Provide transportation to Davies within a 10-mile radius, following the Pennsylvania model.



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Davies' mission for more than 50 years is to provide high-quality career and technical education to students throughout the State of Rhode Island. It follows that our transportation catchment area should support our statewide mission to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Mary Watkins  
Director/Superintendent

-and-

The Davies Board of Trustees, as endorsed by a resolution of the Board on Monday, May 12, 2025, by the members in attendance:

Paul Ouellette, Chairperson  
Rosemary Costigan  
Doug Sherman  
Harold Burns  
John Quinn  
Ray Chartier  
Jim Segovis  
Kelly Doern  
Mario Zuluaga  
Shawn Sullivan  
Alyssa Alvarado  
Megan Herne  
Dave Chenevert